

The Dead Horse

January 2009

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

FRANKENROSE

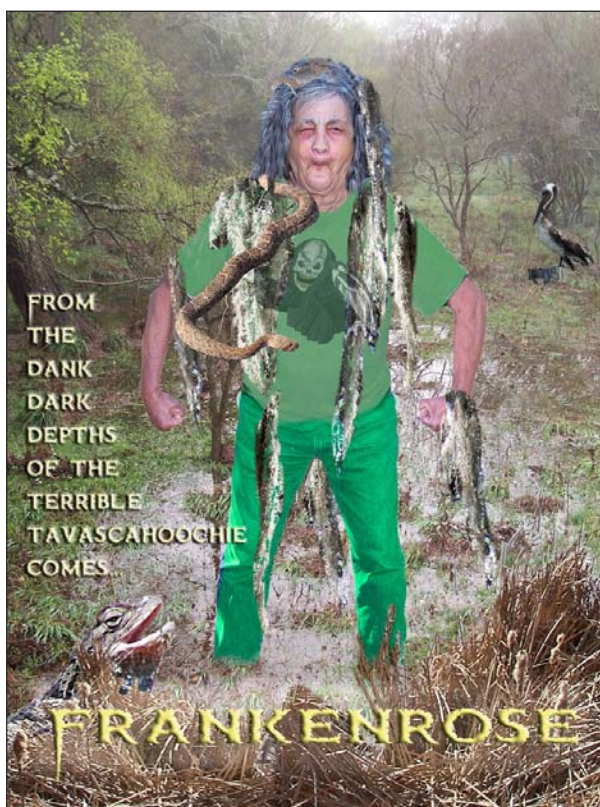
A strange, eerie noise...the crackling of branches just beyond the glow of a warm, cozy campfire.... Something's out there... lurking in the darkness... But what is it?

As most of you know it's fairly common to have reports & questions from our park guests concerning "strange noises" heard in and around Dead Horse Ranch State Park, especially at night. Horned owls, coyotes, bobcats, nighthawks, and cicadas can all add an eerie ambiance to an evening campout.

Nothing out of the ordinary for us, says Park Manager Les Bovee. *The desert is full of activity especially at night. Desert creatures for the most part are often more active at night (to avoid the heat of the day) to conserve energy,* Bovee says.

Lately though, Bovee muses, *over the past few years we've had reports of a "Swamp Creature" here at the park. The locals have come to call it FRANKENROSE.*

From what we know, it walks the campground late at night usually after 10:00 pm. Campers often report that it will leave "Notice to Pay" slips on their non-compliant vehicles, or appear all at once from out of the shadows, carrying boxes of firewood to them. Oh, it's quite friendly actually. Loves kids! In fact we are told that **FRANKENROSE** has 21



grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren (never eats any of them to my knowledge). It doesn't seem to tolerate barking dogs though. It loves the "Price is Right" show!!

According to Volunteer Coordinator Eric Buzonas, who has seen the **FRANKENROSE** creature many times, *It first*

arrived here in May of 2006. It came all the way from the backwoods swamps of LaCoochie, Florida. To many bugs there I guess, so it migrated this way. I'll never forget that day... It came to my residence covered in moss and leaves. It had a strange green tint to its skin and was adorned with gator tooth necklaces and seashells. It had all types of wiggly snakes and crabs crawling all over it. There was something definitely special about the creature.

*Well, right away I knew that we'd sure be fortunate to have that **FRANKENROSE** creature at our park. We'd draw in visitors from all over the country, and increase our revenue tenfold!! After Bovee's approval I immediately put it to work and it's been a blessing here ever since.*

"Frank-n-Rose" Larramore are truly appreciated by all of us at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. They have contributed to our success in countless ways, and have become a part of our extended family.

*Article submitted by Ranger Eric
Picture submitted by Nan Hephner*

Shop with a Cop

DHRSP Rangers, Cottonwood Police Officers, and lucky children met Santa at the airport, blasted the sirens all the way to WalMart, and then went on a shopping spree.



Rob,
Max,
Alex,
George,
Garrett,
Eric



Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

Dates to Remember

- * Dan & Margo Albright leaving Raven Maint #1 on January 31st
- * Bob Akey leaving January 31st (Cabin Host)
- * Tom & Anne Howe arriving Feb 1st (Raven Maint #1)
- * Karen & Emerson Trushel arriving Feb 1st to Host Cabins



December

29 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

January

12 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

26 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

Volunteer Joan Grey sent this picture of an unknown Spider; in late September: It was taken at the volunteer garden in Raven Loop.



December 1 Volunteer Meeting "Radio Etiquette"

Ranger Rob Burson, of the Verde River Greenway, (pictured in middle) stopped by to help the volunteers on "Radio Etiquette". His advise is to follow the 3 rules: **Clarity**, **Brevity** and **Safety**. Under the **Clarity** category, he suggested that we all stop and listen, before we talk, then to speak clearly in a normal talking voice. In the **Brevity** category, we heard about "chit-chat" and "no-nos". His advice was to keep it short and sweet and if you have a long string of information, take a break (allowing others to come in) by saying ... BREAK! wait for a minute, then go on with your message ... BREAK! The **Safety** category brought forth questions from



the volunteers about emergency situations. Ranger Rob qualmed most of the apprehensive situations with the news that ALL dispatches and police cars have GPS and can zoom in on the emergency call from your radio and know exactly where you are calling from. However; he also mentioned that that not all officers are trained to the level that guarantees a successful operation - that's why it is always good to *stay on the line with the dispatcher*. It was discussed that normally a park official will assist emergency personnel by acting as an escort vehicle leading the emergency vehicle(s) into the park when appropriate. A park official will often park near the

entrance station and lead the vehicle(s) to the appropriate location. Should a park official not be available for this (such as an after-hours situation), a volunteer may be asked to direct the emergency vehicles to the appropriate location, providing that dispatch has been notified and cleared them to do so. In no way should a volunteer act as a law enforcement official or operate in such a manner that may hinder or interfere with any emergency response. When in doubt stay clear! Thank You, Ranger Rob!

Merry Bobber Tree



Holiday spirit was displayed by the Johnson Family, thanking the DHRSP volunteers and the many early walker and kayaking friends of DHRSP. This is their gift to us, so that we may all share in the "gifts" of Christmas. On Dec 5th, at 8:30 am, off-site volunteers; Sandy, Trish and Carolyn joined the family and friends for Holiday Cheer at their home. In front of their tree (trimmed with about 500 bobbers) is Roy, the collector of 1000 bobbers from DHRSP.

Merry Merry at DHRSP



Pot-luck Christmas Party was held on Dec 19th. The White-Elephant exchange of presents, brought hoots and hollars from the volunteers. Ranger Eric was the Christmas Tree!!!!



Albino Catfish

Danny Madison displays the albino catfish he caught in the lagoon at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

Turtle Vists DHRSP



Note from your Editor

In the interest of saving money on printing the newsletters, we are offering the newsletter to be emailed to your email addresses. This will also enable you to send the newsletter to friends and family who have no idea what you are doing with your lives. If you would like a paper copy as well please send your email addresses and intentions to: carolynmeehan@comcast.net. Also, if you have ANY pictures, stories, or information that you would like to see in the newsletter (you know ... stuff about you or your neighbors, where you have been, where you are going, where they have been, where they are going), please submit it all to carolynmeehan@comcast.net.

Thanks a million, Carolyn

ASP's First-Ever Cycling Team Participates in el Tour de Tucson



Left to Right: Kathy Casavant, Bob Casavant, Randy Victory, Todd Shelton & George Christianson

"Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without hard work, commitment, and a dash of insanity!"

The idea occurred inadvertently... While at this year's Teamwork & Training Conference (TTC), someone came up to me and asked, "Hey, are you Randy Victory? Liz said I should talk to you about biking..." Midway through TTC, I realized that AZ State Parks has plenty of Rangers, Volunteers, and family members who ride! In fact, we have enough cyclists to get together and form a team to ride at the biggest bike ride in AZ: el Tour de Tucson. Thanks to the encouragement and support of Kartchner Caverns' geologist Bob Casavant, we were able to turn a nice idea into reality!

This year's Tour was big, all right - approximately 8600 participants. Riders came from everywhere, even as far away Japan, to ride course distances ranging from 35 to 109 miles. The best part? All of this is for charity!! El Tour benefits almost 30 charities, civic, and community groups, including Tu Nidito Children & Family Services, American Parkinson Disease Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Children's Medical Center, Hermitage Cat Shelter, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

From Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Assistant Park Manager George Christianson, his sister Laura, and Ranger Randy Victory opted for the 109-mile ride. Kartchner Caverns was represented by Dr. Bob Casavant and his wife, Kathy, as well as Ranger Steve Willsey, who all selected the 66-mile distance. From Lyman Lake came Ranger Todd Wills, who entered the 35-mile race. Volunteer Jim Speck of Kartchner Caverns volunteered for el Tour's Bike Patrol. We all made it to the finish line!

The 2008 el Tour de Tucson was fun and gave us great exposure. Get out there and ride your bike and maybe we'll see you in Tucson in 2009!

submitted by Ranger Randy

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at DHRSP

We arrived back in Florida the beginning of Oct. and have been working on our "honey do" list. Hope everyone is well. We really enjoy receiving the Deadhorse Dispatch. Great idea, hope it continues. Also, kudos to all parties that worked on the new website, it's awesome.

Don't have any definite plans yet for 2009. Who knows, we may just end up in Cottonwood again. Best wishes for the Holiday Season.

Muriel & George Boucher

Hello note from Doug Palosaari

Hi Eric, just thought I'd drop you a line and let everyone know how I'm doing down here in Tucson. It was such a pleasure working with everyone up there at Dead Horse Ranch. You've got quite a fantastic group of Rangers and Camp Hosts. I'll remember them all fondly for many years to come.

I arrived here at Desert Trails RV park outside of Tucson AZ. I'm not doing any camp host jobs, as I'm so busy with all the activities here in the park, I barely have time to do my usual touring and exploring in the area. I've joined a writers group, started a computer class along with a couple other "experts" to share our knowledge of computer skills. I've even joined a bike riding club. The park has some great desert trails to hike as well.

Our best to all!

My wife and I would be happy to receive the newsletter via email. Save a tree and a stamp. Additionally, we are no longer at the South Dakota address. Since June, we have been living in middle GA in Warner Robins. Phone is 478-550-7219. Half-dead Ed & Marianne Iwanski

Hello everyone-

We have not forgotten you. We have just been busy and I have to admit "slow". We enjoyed our South American visit and visiting our two daughters, their families, other relatives, and friends of course. We arrived here at Picacho Peak on November 4th. We want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas! We really did enjoy working with you.

Don and Sue Neal

Hi to everyone!

Hope you have a wonderful holiday season. Just thinking of what a wonderful time Del & I had there in 2006 as Campground Hosts at Quail Run co-hosting with Shirley & Steve. Our travels since then have been to Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain National Park, and this year to Niagara Falls. We have also hosted at Pt. Lookout State Park in Scotland, MD, Army C.O.E. Park in Summerfield, WVA and several others. But I always tell people that Dead Horse Ranch is my favorite!" Anne & Dell Foster

Bud & Loma Jenkins

Bud is an off park volunteer. He and his wife Loma make their home in Cottonwood. During the winter months he volunteers at DHRSP and in the summer months he volunteers at Fool Hollow State Park in Show Low, Arizona. He and Loma have a Park Model in Show Low in an RV Resort and spend their summers there. In between they like to travel and camp with their RV Club, The Red Rock Sams.

Bud retired after thirty years in law enforcement with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. After retirement, they traveled all over Baja Mexico in their RV. They fell in love with a small Mexican village, Los Barriles, between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz on the sea of Cortez and eventually bought a beach front place there on the sea of Cortez. For the next fifteen years they divided their time between Mexico and Arizona, spending about six months of the year at each place. Eventually they sold their little bit of paradise and now are full time in Arizona.

Happy Holidays

Hello, just wanted to wish all the staff and volunteers "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" for your get together this week. Gordon and I are in a different park than planned. We are at Scottsdale Trailer Corral, 3202 N. Scottsdale Rd. 85251 #34. We don't have a hot tub or pool here, but can walk to "old town" real easily. Just want to thank you for a great stay at Deadhorse Ranch. If you are in area give us a call: 269-207-4793. Have a good pot luck.

Betty and Gordon Lawrick